



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: HARITA et al.

Serial No.: 09/788,428

Filed: 2/21/2001

Title: BEARING HOLDING STRUCTURE
AND MOTOR HAVING SAME

Atty. Dkt.: 02-033

Art Unit: 3683

Examiner: Siconolfi

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REPLY BRIEF

Sir:

In response to the Supplemental Examiner's Answer mailed 21 June 2005, please consider the following remarks:

The examiner states the following:

"Regarding claims 2 and 7, Appellant argues that the fingers of Rose do not allow for relative movement after the fixing surfaces come into contact. This is incorrect. Rose discloses that the fingers lock the surfaces in a releasable manner (see column 4 line 2). Therefore, the surfaces may be adjusted after the surfaces come into contact."

The appellants agree that the fingers 42 are releasable. This means that the fingers 42 can be released to permit the bracket 14 to separate from the plate 16. However, this does not mean that the fingers 42 allow radial and relative movement for adjusting axial alignment of the bearing when the fixing surfaces are in contact, as claimed. When the fingers 42 are snapped into place, the bracket 14 is securely locked into place. (See column 3, line 73 through column 4, line 3). If the examiner is arguing that the fingers 42 can be released to manually adjust the

position of the bracket 14, this is illogical, because the position of the bracket 14 is determined by the position of the holes 48. The position of the bracket 14 cannot be adjusted by simply releasing the fingers 42. The bracket 14 will return to the position fixed by the holes 48 when the fingers 42 are released. The position of the bracket 14 is not adjustable and is not used to adjust alignment in the Rose patent. This is the most significant difference between the Rose device and the claimed device.

The examiner states the following:

"Furthermore, Claim 2 reads that "fixing surfaces are fixed to each other to inhibit the relative and radial movement." That is until the surfaces are fixed to each other they allow relative and radial movement. The same is true of the surfaces of Rose. When the two surfaces are not "fixed" to each other, then they can move relative to each other."

This argument ignores the claim language. Claim 2 recites that when the fixing surfaces come into contact with each other in advance [of being fixed], the fixing surfaces allow radial and relative movement for adjusting axial alignment among the first and second members and the bearing. The device of the Rose patent does not allow radial and relative movement when the fixing surfaces are in contact with each other, due to the locking fingers 42. Any "adjustment" of the position of the bracket 14 that is made before the fingers 42 are locked will be lost when the fingers 42 are released. Therefore, such hypothetical movement is not "for adjustment of the axial alignment among the first and second members and the bearing" as claimed.

The examiner states the following:

"Additionally, the fingers of Rose are part of one of the fixing surface [sic] just as the projections are part of one of the fixing surface [sic] in the instant invention. Therefore, if the fingers are touching the opposite surface but have not snapped into place and therefore been "fixed", adjustment is possible."

Claim 2 recites that the fixing surfaces extend radially and permit radial movement for adjusting axial alignment among the first and second members and the bearing. The fingers 42 of the Rose patent do not extend radially and do not permit radial movement for adjusting axial alignment among the first and second members and the bearing. Therefore, the fixing surfaces

of the Rose device cannot be said to be in contact when the fingers 42 are touching the plate 16 and before they are snapped into place.

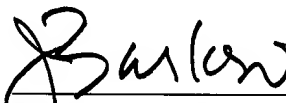
The examiner states the following:

Regarding claims 3 and 8, Appellant argues that the fingers of Rose do not move once the fixing surfaces come into contact with each other. As Examiner has stated earlier, the fingers of Rose are part of one of the fixing surfaces. Note claims [sic] 3 reads, "one of the fixing surfaces is provided with at least a projection". It is clear that the fingers of Rose can move within the apertures on the other surface (as admitted to by the applicant) and since the fingers must be considered part of one of the fixing surfaces (as evidence by claim 3), then it becomes clear that Strobl in view of Rose reads upon the claims.

Again, the fingers 42 of the Rose patent do not extend radially and do not permit radial movement for adjusting axial alignment among the first and second members and the bearing when the fixing surfaces are in contact, as claimed.

In view of the forgoing, the appellants respectfully submit that the outstanding rejections should be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,



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